

What is claimed is:

1. A session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:
- 5 a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively;
- 10 a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information; and
- 15 an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a session using two or more media among the plurality of
- 20 media according to the received unified session information.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
- 25 said integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a

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start of the session using the two or more media,  
identity management for the session, and a  
disconnection of the session.

5     3.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
          each of said plurality of interface devices  
          comprises a session information conversion device  
          converting the received session information into  
          the unified session information.

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4.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
      comprising

          a process device performing an information  
          process while inheriting said unified session  
15   information, wherein

          said integral management device instructs said  
          process device to perform a process corresponding  
          to the unified session information.

20   5.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
          said integral management device assigns a  
          plurality of session identifiers to a user  
          identifier of a user at a request to establish a  
          plurality of sessions from the user, manages the  
25   plurality of sessions corresponding to the

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plurality of session identifiers, and instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to a selected session identifier, which is selected by the user from among the plurality of session identifiers, when unified session information including the selected session identifier is received.

6. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said integral management device stores plural pieces of additional identification information corresponding to results of a plurality of individual information processes belonging to the session using the two or more media, and instructs said process device to perform a process based on a result of an individual information process corresponding to selected additional identification information, which is selected by a user from among the plural pieces of additional identification information, when unified session information including the selected additional identification information is received.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a register device registering user information,  
wherein

among said plurality of interface devices, an  
interface device corresponding to a user-desired  
5 available medium confirms a connection of the  
available medium, and said register device  
registers the available medium as the user  
information when the connection of the available  
medium is confirmed.

10 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

a register device registering user information;  
and

15 an authentication device performing user  
authentication, wherein:

said plurality of media includes a voice  
medium;

when a user requests use of the voice medium,  
20 an interface device corresponding to the voice  
medium among said plurality of interface devices  
obtains voiceprint information of the user;

said register device registers the voiceprint  
information as the user information; and

25 said authentication device performs user

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authentication of the user according to the entered voiceprint information when the user gains access.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a process device performing a process relating to information search while inheriting the unified session information, wherein

said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a searching process corresponding to the unified session information.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

said process device comprises a control device assigning plural pieces of history identification information to results of a plurality of corresponding searching processes belonging to the session using the two or more media; and

said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a re-searching process based on a result of a searching process corresponding to selected history identification information, which is selected by a user from among the plural pieces of history identification information, when unified session information

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including the selected history identification information is received.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

5       said process device comprises:

          a storage device storing a result of a latest searching process among results of a plurality of searching processes belonging to the session using the two or more media; and

10       a control device controlling for performing a re-searching process based on the result of the latest searching process when said integral management device instructs a searching process corresponding to the unified session  
15       information.

~~12.~~ The apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network, comprising:

20       a mail communications device transmitting and receiving data of an electronic mail medium;

          a WEB communications device transmitting and receiving data of an WEB medium.

          a voice communications device transmitting and receiving data of a voice medium;

25       a mail control device receiving session

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information from said mail communications device,  
and generating unified session information  
corresponding to received session information;

5 a WEB control device receiving session  
information from said WEB communications device,  
and generating unified session information  
corresponding to received session information;

10 a voice control device receiving session  
information from said voice communications device,  
and generating unified session information  
corresponding to received session information; and

15 an integral management device receiving the  
unified session information from said mail control  
device, said WEB control device, and said voice  
control device, and performing a process relating  
to session management of a session using two or  
more media among the electronic mail medium, the  
WEB medium, and the voice medium according to the  
received unified session information.

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13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein

25 said integral management device performs a  
process relating to session management including a  
start of the session using two or more media,  
identity management for the session, and a

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disconnection of the session.

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

5 a process device performing a process relating to information search while inheriting the unified session information, wherein

said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a searching process  
10 corresponding to the unified session information.

15. A session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

15 a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively; and

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,  
20 respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and performing a process relating to session management of a session  
25 using two or more media among the plurality of

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media according to the unified session information.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein  
said plurality of interface devices perform a  
process relating to session management containing a  
start of the session using two or more media,  
identity management for the session, and a  
disconnection of the session.

17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein  
said plurality of interface devices  
cooperatively perform the process relating to the  
session management in a distributed manner  
according to the unified session information.

18. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein  
one of said plurality of interface devices  
representatively performs the process relating to  
the session management.

19. A session management apparatus for managing a  
session of an information process through a network  
using a plurality of media, comprising:

an issue device issuing session identification  
information using two or more media among the

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plurality of media;

a management device performing consistent session management on the two or more media according to the identification information.

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20. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for a computer which manages a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, said program used to direct the computer to perform a process comprising:

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receiving session information of each of the plurality of media through the network;

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information;

15

and

performing session management of a session using two or more media among the plurality of media according to the unified session information.

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21. The storage medium according to claim 20, wherein

said program instructs the computer to perform a process relating to session management containing a start of the session using two or more media, identity management for the session, and a

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disconnection of the session.

5 ~~22.~~ A method of managing a session managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

receiving session information of each of the plurality of media through the network;

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information;

10 and

performing session management of a session using two or more media among the plurality of media according to the unified session information.

15 23. The method according to claim 22, wherein said session management includes a start of the session using two or more media, identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session.

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~~24.~~ A session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

25 a plurality of communications means for transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

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media respectively;

a plurality of interface means for respectively  
corresponding to the plurality of media,  
respectively receiving session information from the  
5 plurality of communications means, and generating  
unified session information corresponding to the  
received session information; and

integral management means for receiving the  
unified session information from each of said  
10 plurality of interface means, and performing a  
process relating to session management on a session  
using two or more media among the plurality of  
media according to the received unified session  
information.

15 ~~25~~. A propagation signal propagating a program to a  
computer which manages a session of an information  
process through a network using a plurality of  
media, said program used to direct the computer to  
20 perform a process comprising:

receiving session information of each of the  
plurality of media through the network;

generating unified session information  
corresponding to the received session information;

25 and

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performing session management of a session  
using two or more media among the plurality of  
media according to the unified session information.

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